

Northern Bay Ambulance:

Owned and operated by: Garfield, Mt. Forest & Pinconning Townships

These townships all have a special assessment to help subsidize the ambulance service that is applied to every parcel that has a structure. The amount for 2025 was \$137 for each of these parcels.

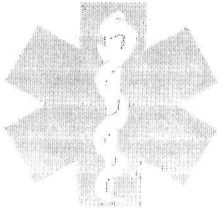
As ownership has changed over the years, we are still dispatched to other Northern Bay County Townships and Cities without paying subsidization, this has greatly affected our ability to stay afloat to serve our communities. We do not have any control of our dispatch as that is managed by Bay County Central Dispatch.

Northern Bay Ambulance was formed to serve a need for an ambulance to be available to our rural area without a 25–30-minute wait from Bay City and in some more outlying area you may have to wait an hour. In an emergency, time is important to save a life. We provide Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service as well as Basic Service. We have twenty-five (25) employees both full and part-time.

Jurisdiction	Population	Square Miles
Garfield Township	1693	35.7
Mt. Forest Township	1399	35.9
Pinconning Township	2299	42.0
Gibson Township	1124	35.6
City of Pinconning	1200	0.85
Fraser Township	2999	32.4
Total	10,714	182.45

Our ambulance service covers a very large rural area, and our vehicle mileage is very high. We have three (3) ambulances operable currently and (2) two that need additional work. We usually have two (2) in service every day leaving one (1) back up rig. Due to our vehicles all having high mileage and routine maintenance we are struggling with repairs on our aging vehicles. Our vehicles are model years 2005, 2006, 2008, 2014 and 2016, we have had engine replacements, transmissions and other maintenance issues.

The ambulance service is subsidized because of the rate of medical reimbursement being so low. Our average bill for service is \$1,400.00 billed to the insurance or patient, we on average receive \$545.50 of that bill paid. Our average cost to run that vehicle is \$1,395.35 so we are taking a loss on every call of approximately -\$839.35. The cost of doing business is a loss for us financially, however providing ambulance service to our communities is more important and that is why we continue as a subsidized service.



Northern Bay Ambulance

Sue Root graciously gave us a brief history of the Northern Bay Ambulance Service. From it's origin and through it's growing pains to the present time the people who serve on Northern Bay Ambulance have remained devoted to their duty and are true examples of people dedicated to their community.

Northern Bay Ambulance began it's existence with the first call to an accident on Interstate 75 at 1:40 PM on May 29, 1969.

The first ambulance was a used Cadillac purchased from Lee Funeral Home for \$4,000.00 and sold in November of 1973 for \$600.00

In the first year Northern Bay responded to 144 calls for assistance. This number rose to 304 calls in the tenth year, 507 calls in the twentieth year and 516 calls in 1999 - the thirtieth year in service.

After selling the initial vehicle, they leased a 1973 Pontiac Superior 54" headroom ambulance with air conditioning for \$14,892.00 but had to replace the engine in 1977. This ambulance was sold through a sealed bid process in 1979 to Saunders Ambulance Service for \$350.00 which was the highest bid received.

Through the years other ambulances were purchased with an ever rising cost. For example, one purchased in 1978 nearly depleted the budget at a cost of \$24,500.00 while the most recent rig carried a price tag of \$74,959.00.

The service was initially funded by contributions from the city and each township at \$1.00 per capita and user fees. The contribution from each entity is the same today, \$1.00 per capita annually although it was raised to \$1.50 for a seven year time period to build the new ambulance facility.

Minutes of NBA meetings in the early 1970's indicate the service experienced hard times as motions were made to have the governing bodies send 10 cents extra per capita to help with rising expenses.

Financial accounts in the April 1976 minutes show a balance on hand of \$11.27. This seemed like quite a windfall compared to the minutes of September 1972 when NBA bills totaled \$1586.94 more than they had in the bank. (A motion was made to pay the bills when they got the money!)

Rates have had to be increased to keep up with rising costs. They've risen from \$30.00 base rate and \$1.00 per loaded mile in 1969, to \$40.00 in 1972, \$55.00 in 1979 and \$75.00 in 1980. That rate remained in effect until contracting with Bay Medical Center to have a paramedic on duty 24 hours a day in April of 1992. The current base rate is \$430.00 and \$4.00 per loaded mile. There is absolutely no way to measure the quality of care given by the ambulance attendants or give an accounting of lives that have been saved.

The ambulance service began with twelve volunteers, trained in CPR and First Aid, who were paid \$10.00 per run.

In November of 1970 six of the volunteers were recognized for receiving their "Medical Self-Help Course" certificates.

Minutes of February 1977 indicate new E.M.S. report forms were required to be filled out after each call which placed extensive responsibility on volunteer drivers.

In 1982 the State made additional demands. Personnel must be licensed Emergency Medical Technicians.

Volunteers are now allotted \$25.00 per run plus very limited benefits and the Northern Bay Ambulance roster includes 1 paramedic, 5 Specialists and 8 Basic Emergency Medical Technicians. Over 150 personnel have come and gone with some completing only one shift. Buck Schumann is the only original volunteer that is left and he has been with NBA for 31 years.

This is not just a job to the people of Northern Bay Ambulance. It's caring for their friends and neighbors in the community.